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Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- June 9, 2016





June 9, 2016

Latest News

Rep. Shimkus Touts TSCA Reform's Regulatory Certainty As Major Victory

Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL) is touting regulatory certainty for chemical manufacturers and other proponents of chemical safety reform as a major win in the final legislation to overhaul the decades old Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), which the Senate approved June 7 and sent to President Obama for his expected signature.

Sen. Udall Says EPA's Funding Adequate To Start Implementing TSCA Reform

Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) — a key figure in crafting the final Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) reform bill and also a top Democrat on the Senate appropriations panel — says EPA's existing funding is adequate for the agency to start implementing the TSCA overhaul, and that EPA is unlikely to get a budget boost because of the bill.

Senators Seek Environmental Amendments To Defense Authorization Bill

Senators from both sides of the aisle are seeking to attach environmental amendments to the pending fiscal year 2017 defense authorization bill — including a measure that significantly impedes implementation of EPA's 2015 tighter air standard for ozone — despite President Obama's threat to veto the bill due to broad objections over national security and foreign policy measures.

EPA Moves To Strike 'Affirmative Defenses' From State, Federal Air Permits

EPA is proposing to strike from federal regulations governing state and federal air permits for industrial facilities "affirmative defense" provisions that shield companies from some liability for emissions limit violations, but is leaving open the option for states to allow such defenses in future permits if they are based solely on state laws.

Former CASAC Chairman Says Panel Should Consider Costs Of NAAQS

A former chairman of EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) is asking the panel to evaluate possible adverse health, economic, social, energy or other aspects of implementing EPA's national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) — part of the panel's mandate that industry and GOP critics say it has never discharged.

EPA Advisors Urge Quick Action On Key Solvent, Call For Broader Review

EPA science advisors are generally praising the agency's draft human health risk assessment of the solvent 1-bromopropane (1-BP) and urging the agency to act quickly to reduce exposures, while also citing new biomarker reports on possible wide exposures in pressing EPA to reconsider its decision not to assess risks to bystanders.

House GOP Open To Discussing Water Infrastructure Bills In WRDA Talks

House Republicans are open to discussing pending legislation options to boost water infrastructure funding as part of upcoming conference talks with the Senate on this year's Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), says a water industry source, though it is unclear which proposals the GOP might be willing to consider.

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News Briefs

White House Threatens Veto Of Ozone NAAQS Delay Bill

The White House is threatening to veto legislation the House approved June 8 that would delay implementation of EPA's stricter 2015 ozone national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS), and would also extend the review cycle for all future NAAQS from the existing five-year Clean Air Act timeline to a 10-year review cycle.

U.S., Canada Designate Great Lakes Chemicals Of Concern

The United States and Canada have targeted eight chemicals of concern for the Great Lakes as part of a binational agreement to improve the water quality in the shared lakes and protect human health by reducing anthropogenic releases of the chemicals.

EPA IG Reviewing Agency Air Inspectors' Qualifications

EPA's Office of Inspector
General (IG) is launching an
investigation of the
qualifications of the agency's
inspectors who verify
industrial facilities' Clean Air
Act compliance, following a
2013 report by the IG that
found one-third of EPA's
inspectors for the agency's
risk management program
(RMP) lacked the proper
credentials.

Senate Approves Landmark Bipartisan TSCA Reform Bill

The Senate on June 7
approved by voice vote
landmark bipartisan
legislation to overhaul the
1976 Toxic Substances
Control Act (TSCA) and give
EPA a slew of new powers
to evaluate risks from new
and existing chemicals,
sending the legislation to
President Obama who is
expected to sign it into law.

House Science Panel Chairman Faults EPA Glyphosate Review

House science panel
Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX) is faulting EPA's
handling of its ongoing
cancer analysis of the
common herbicide
glyphosate, asking the
agency to provide officials
for interviews with the panel
after EPA pulled back a
review that conflicted with a
World Health Organization
finding the substance
probably causes cancer.

EDITORIAL CONTACT 703-562-8763

E-MAIL >> CUSTOMER SERVICE 703-416-8505

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Mailing address: 1919 South Eads Street, Suite 201, Arlington VA 22202

Telephone: 703-416-8500 or 1-800-424-9068

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